Target fixed and achievement under NFSM

1568. SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Food Security Mission has attained its target fixed for foodgrains production;

(b) if so, the details including the target fixed and attained as on today on various foodgrains, category-wise, foodgrain-wise and State-wise; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor and steps taken to attain the target?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) to (c) The Centrally Sponsored Scheme National Food Security Mission (NFSM) has been launched with effect from Rabi, 2007-08 in the country to enhance the production of rice, wheat and pulses by 10, 8 and 2 million tonnes, respectively by the end of XI Plan. For the year 2007-08, an indicative target of additional production of 1 million tonnes of rice, 2 million tonnes of wheat and 0.3 million tonnes of pulses has been fixed.

The Mission aims at increasing the production of rice and wheat through productivity enhancement and of pulses through area expansion.

Various intervention of NFSM relate to demonstration of improve production technology distribution of quality seeds of HYVs and hybrids, support of micro nutrients, gypsum, line application, zero tillage, rotavators, weeders and other farm implements, Integrated Pest Management, Integrated Nutrient Management, water lifting and moisture saving devices, capacity building of farmers & trainers, publicity including awards for best performing districts. Besides, the pilot projects on community generators, management of blue bulls and demonstration of ICRISAT technologies would also be implemented.

During the year 2007-08, an allocation of Rs. 400.00 crores has been made to implement the above internventions in rabi/summer rice, wheat and pulses. The implementations of these interventions are on the course of achieving the targets.

Needs to tackle farm sector challenges

1569. SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:
PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Prime Minister while speaking at a seminar on 'Agriculture Revolutions, Inclusive Growth and State Policies' at New Delhi has recently stressed the need to tackle farm sector challenges;

(b) if so, the details of discussion held at the seminar and outcome thereof; and

(c) whether Government has since taken/proposes to take steps to boost the production of foodgrains and also to ensure that farmers in the country are provided with best inputs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Indian agriculture sector has an impressive record of foodgrains production. However, during the 10th Five Year Plan (2002--07) agriculture sector could register an average growth rate of 2.5% against the target of 4%. Government is aware of the importance of agriculture seetor in the overall economic development and well being of the farmers. A number of steps have been taken to rejuvenate the agriculture sector to facilitate inclusive growth. Based on the Revised Draft National Policy for Farmers submitted by the National Commission on Farmers, Government of India has approved the National Policy for Farmers 2007, which, inter-alia, aims to improve economic viability of farming by substantially increasing the net income of the farmers. Various recommendations made by the Commission for rejuvenation of agriculture and allied sectors, as accepted by the Government, have been incorporated in the National Policy for Farmers. These include, inter alia, asset reforms in respect of land, water, livestock, fisheries and bio-resources; support services and inputs like application of frontier technologies for improving productivity in a sustainable manner; agricultural bio-security system; supply of good quality seeds and disease-free planting material; issue of soil health passbooks to the farmers, and integrated nutrient and pest management system etc.

In addition, for revitalization of agriculture sector, Government has launched two new Schemes namely, National Food Security Mission to improve production and productivity of foodgrains and Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana with an objective to incentivise the states so as to increase public investment in agriculture and allied sector, to provide flexibility and autonomy to states in the process of planning and executing agriculture and allied sector schemes and to maximize returns to farmers in agriculture and allied sector. Besides, a number of initiatives, plan schemes and programmes including the initiatives/programmes announced in the Budget 2008-09 have been taken/initiated to address the problems faced by the farmers and for development of agriculture sector.

Per hectare productivity of cotton

1570. SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the present level of productivity of cotton per hectare and how does it compare with other cotton producing countries;

(b) whether there has been any increase in the productivity as a result of recommendations; if any, made by the task force appointed in mid-nineties; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) As per information available on FAO's internet site 'faostat' productivity of cotton in India was 400 Kg./ha as against 1243 kg./ha in China, 1007Kg./ha in Egypt and 805Kg./ha USA in the year 2006.

(b) and (c) Since launch of "Technology Mission on Cotton" in February, 2000 significant achievement has been made in increasing the yield of cotton in the country. The yield per hectare which was at 191 Kg./ha in 2002-03 has increased to 416Kg./ha in 2007-08.